

Appl. No. : 10/778,012
Filed : February 12, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously Presented) The compaction station of Claim 5, wherein the platform is rotatable.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) A compaction station for treating and compacting refuse, comprising:
 - a compaction chamber configured to receive the refuse;
 - ~~at least one steam port~~ steam-injection apparatus configured to inject steam into the compaction chamber;
 - ~~at least one steam extractor~~ steam-removal apparatus configured to remove steam from the compaction chamber; and
 - ~~at least one press~~ compressing apparatus configured to compress the refuse in the compaction chamber.
5. (Original) The compaction station of Claim 4 further comprising a platform for holding the refuse.
6. (Original) The compaction station of Claim 5, wherein the platform comprises an opening, and the platform is configured to rotate such that the refuse placed on the platform will engage a wiper that holds the refuse until the opening in the platform slides underneath the refuse, permitting the refuse to fall into a holding bin.
7. (Original) The compaction station of Claim 4 further comprising a scanner that is configured to scan the refuse treated by the compaction station.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10 further comprising the step of scanning the refuse before the refuse is transferred into the compaction chamber.
10. (Currently Amended) A method of treating and compacting refuse within a compaction station, the method comprising the steps of:
 - loading the refuse into a compaction chamber of the compaction station;
 - injecting ~~high-temperature~~ steam into a the compaction chamber ~~of the compaction station;~~

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extracting the steam from the compaction chamber; and
compressing the refuse into a refuse block.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10 further comprising the step of transferring the refuse block to a landfill.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11, wherein the refuse block is transferred by a truck, a railcar or a barge.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The method of Claim 10 further comprising the step of cooling the refuse block following compaction.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein the refuse block is compressed by a hydraulic ram.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein the refuse is treated by the compaction station at a transfer station or a landfill.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, further comprising the steps of depositing the refuse onto a platform of the compaction station, and transferring the refuse from the platform to the compaction chamber.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, further comprising the step of sealing the compaction chamber, and wherein the steam is injected into the refuse at a temperature and a pressure sufficient to melt plastics in the refuse and vaporize liquids.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, further comprising the step of cooling the refuse block with water to solidify the refuse block.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, further comprising the step of transferring the refuse block from the compaction chamber to a landfill.

23. (Currently Amended) The compaction station of Claim 4, wherein the ~~at least one~~ press compressing apparatus comprises a hydraulic ram.

24. (Currently Amended) The compaction station of Claim 4, further comprising a boiler configured to create steam, the boiler being in communication with the ~~at least one steam~~ port steam-injection apparatus.

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25. (Currently Amended) The compaction station of Claim 24, further comprising a steam condenser in communication with the ~~at least one steam extractor~~ steam-removal apparatus, the steam condenser being configured to condense the steam into water and supply the water to the boiler.